HOWARD CHAYKIN

JESUS ABURTOV

AVENGERS 1959

MARVEL

LIMITED SERIES

5 OF 5

MARVEL PRESENTS

AVENGERS 1959

PART 5 of 5

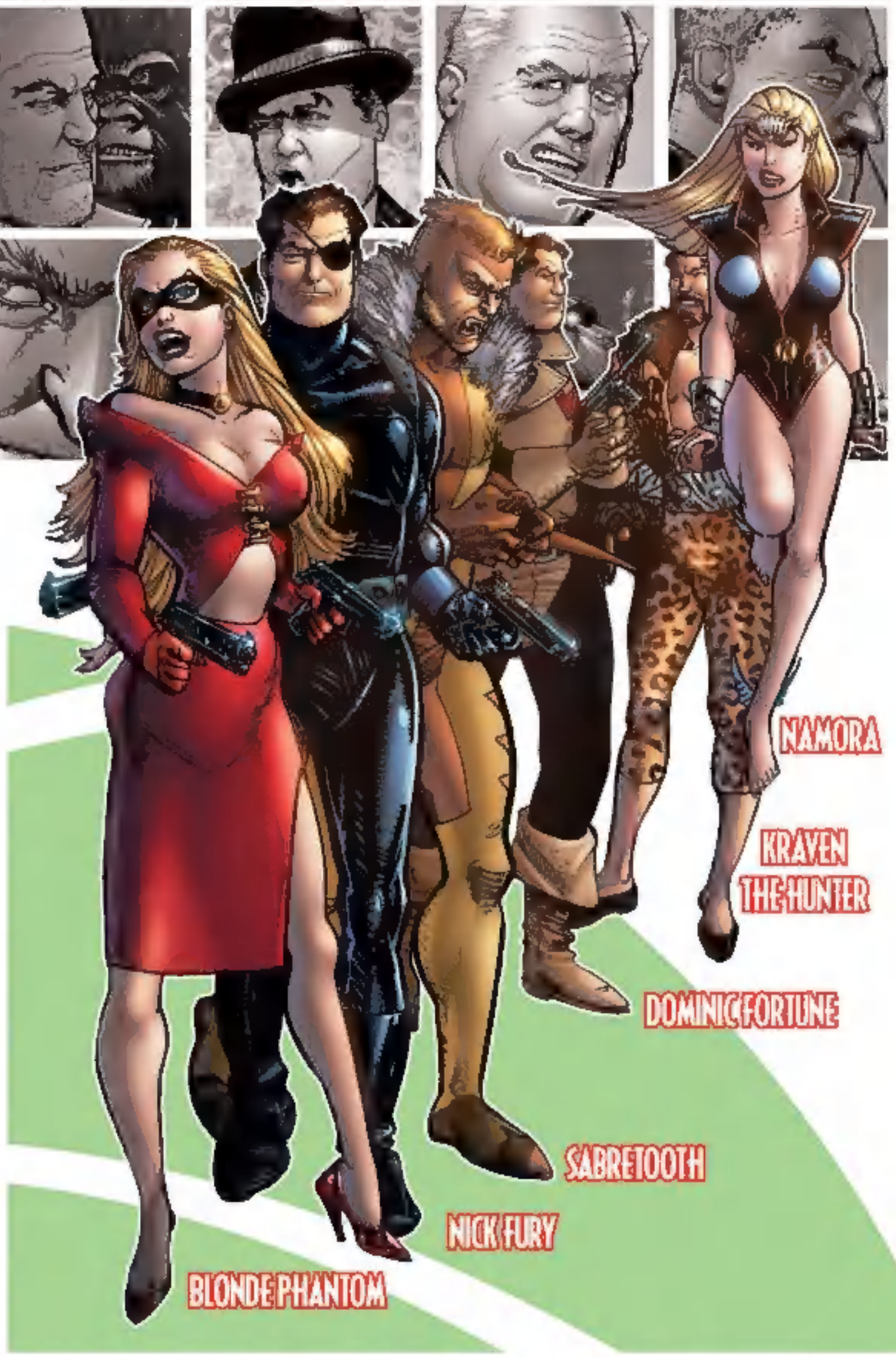
STORY & ART **HOWARD CHAYKIN**

COLOR ARTIST **JESUS ABURTOV** LETTERER **JARED K. FLETCHER**

PREVIOUSLY

America, 1959, Colonel Nick Fury has gathered an elite team of Avengers to combat the forces of chaos that would push the world into darkness.

After a series of attacks, Fury and his team began investigating a mysterious group of ex-Nazis marked by a signature skull blazon. The conspiracy goes all the way up to Geoffrey Sydenham, a man with powerful U.S. government connections and scion of the Dread Dormammu, ruler of the Dark Dimension. As the culmination of their plans, Sydenham's co-conspirator General Dieter Skul used the superhuman Count von Blitzkrieg to send an electromagnetic pulse through the African nation of Wakanda, seeking to overthrow and pillage the technologically advanced country while they held its Prince T'Chaka hostage. Luckily, the Avengers have just arrived to fight Skul's army all on their own...



PRODUCTION **MANNY MEDEROS** ASSISTANT EDITOR **JOHN DENNING** EDITOR **LAUREN SANKOVITCH**

EDITOR IN CHIEF **AXEL ALONSO** CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER **JOE QUESADA** PUBLISHER **DAN BUCKLEY** EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **ALAN FINE**

SPECIAL THANKS TO **RONALD BYRD, JEFF CHRISTIANSEN, KEVIN GARCIA, MARKUS RAYMOND,** AND **STUART VANDAL**

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WAKANDA...

DOCTORANGUTAN.

FRITZ KRON.

COUNT VON BLITZKRIEG.

GENERAL DIETER SKUL.

LEOPARD WOMAN.

VUNDERKNIGHT.

ALL ONETIME UBERMENSCHEN IN THE SERVICE OF THE THIRD REICH.

NOW NEWLY DEPUTIZED AGENTS OF A DEEP COVER U.S. INTELLIGENCE SERVICE CALLED ICON.

...THE HIGH MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY...

FORMER AGENTS OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE, GONE ROGUE UNDER THE WORKING CODE NAME AVENGERS.

POSSIBLY THE ONLY HOPE THE FREE WORLD'S GOT.

...LATE AUTUMN, 1959.

IT ENDS HERE.

VICTOR CREED HAS BEEN AROUND FOR AN AWFULLY LONG TIME.

ONE MIGHT THINK THAT SORT OF LIFE EXPERIENCE WOULD INFORM AN APPROACH THAT CARRIED CAUTION UNDER GUILE.

UNFORTUNATELY, IN VICTOR'S CASE, ONE COMES UP WRONG.

HUBRIS IS SABRETOOTH'S OPERATING MODE.

SKLASSHH!

BUT THERE IS THAT HEALING FACTOR THING...

HEY--

--YOU CALL *THAT* A FIRST DATE?

AND HERE I THOUGHT WE'D COME TO REALLY *MEAN* SOMETHING TO EACH OTHER.

THUNDIT!

LEGEND HAS IT THAT FRITZ KRON'S ROBOTS CAME TOO LATE TO AID THE NAZI WAR MACHINE...

...BUT IN TRUTH, IT WAS HITLER WHO COMPLETELY MISUNDERSTOOD THE VALUE OF THESE DRONE SOLDIERS...

...CHOOSING INSTEAD TO SACRIFICE AN ENTIRE GENERATION OF CHILDREN IN WHAT SEEMED TO BE A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO SAVE HIS CRIMINAL REGIME...

...BUT WAS, IN TRUTH, A GENERATIONAL SUICIDE PACT DICTATED BY A MADMAN.

BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM BLAM

I THINK *THIS* HAS GONE ON LONG *ENOUGH*, DON'T YOU?

BURNING!

I'VE BEEN WAITING TO DO THIS *FOREVER*, DIETER.

THANKS, MCTEAGUE--

--'S'ABOUT *DAMNED* TIME.

COUNT VON BLITZKRIEG HAS A THING ABOUT WOMEN...

...HE RATHER LIKES THEM...

...BUT NOT IN A GOOD WAY.

KLIMPERKNIGHT, ON THE OTHER HAND, ISN'T AT ALL FOND OF WOMEN...

...SO THE RESULTS OF BOTH THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT THE SO-CALLED WEAKER SEX...

...SEEM TO MEET IN THE MIDDLE.

OF COURSE, NAMORA IS HARDLY JUST ANY WOMAN...

...AND NO ONE WOULD EVER MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING OF HER IN ANY WAY AS THE WEAKER SEX.

ÜBERMENSCHEN...

...MY ROYAL BUTT.

DOCTORANGUTAN.

KRAVEN THE HUNTER.

THE HUNTER BECOMES THE HUNTED, KRAVEN.

'BOUT WHAT I'D EXPECTED FROM A JUMPED-UP GORILLA.

HERMANN GOERING, AIR MARSHAL OF THE THIRD REICH...

...LOVED TO DRESS UP IN FUR LEATHER AND MAIL FOR HIS WEEKLY BOAR HUNT...

SPROING!

...AND HE TOOK PARTICULAR JOY ON THOSE HUNTS WHEN HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE GOOD DOCTOR.

KLIKK..

FOR HIS PART, KRAVEN IS A MAN WHO HAS ALWAYS HUNTED ALONE...

SIZZZZIKKK

...AND OVERKILL IS HIS DEFAULT MODE.

THAT'S *ENOUGH* FOR NOW, SERGEI--

--I THINK YOU *GOT* HIM.

YOU *SURE* ABOUT THIS?
I *MEAN*--
COMPLETELY.
I *KNOW* WHAT YOU MEAN...
...WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT?*
YOU NEED TO CONSERVE YOUR *STRENGTH,* LIMEY--
SHABATHABOOOMM
--WE'VE GOT *WORK* TO DO.
LIKE HE *SAYS,* WE'RE NOT *FINISHED, MCTEAGUE.*
I AM WELL *AWARE* OF THAT, COLONEL FURY.
AND WE HAVE TO MOVE *FAST.*
CAN I ASSUME YOU'RE *CONCERNED* ABOUT MY ABILITIES TO MAKE OUR *NEXT* MOVE?
WELL, *YEAH.*
NOT TO *WORRY,* COLONEL...
...MY *ENERGIES* MAY NOT BE *LIMITLESS...*

"...BUT WE WILL *PERSEVERE* AND WE WILL *TRIUMPH.*"

WASHINGTON, D.C.

I'M *NOT* ENTIRELY *COMFORTABLE* WITH WHERE THIS ICON THING HAS GONE, GEOFFREY.

IT'S A LITTLE *LATE* FOR COMFORT, SENATOR...

...LIKE IT OR *NOT,* YOU'VE BECOME A *COG* IN THE GREAT ENGINE OF *HISTORY...*

...AND WHEN THE HISTORY OF THIS *MOMENT* IS *WRITTEN,* YOU'LL BE A *HERO...*

...A MAN WHO HELPED *SAVE* THE UNITED STATES IN ITS HOUR OF *DESPERATE* NEED...

...A *VISIONARY* WHO DARED TO CHALLENGE THE FUTURE BY CONJOINING MODERN *TECHNOLOGY* AND ANCIENT *MAGICKS* IN THE NAME OF CIVILIZATION.

I'VE SUPPORTED YOU FROM WORD *ONE,* GEOFFREY...

...BUT THIS IS GETTING *CREEPY,* IF YOU KNOW WHAT I'M *SAYING.*

KWHA-RUMPPFFF!

WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT?*

THAT, SENATOR HARTE, WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE *END...*

...THE END OF CREEPING *NIHILISM,* OF INTERNATIONAL *BOLSHEVISM,* OF COSMOPOLITAN *DESPAIR...*

...AND THE *BEGINNING* OF ICON'S SALVATION OF CIVILIZATION.

YOU *PROMISED* ME THIS WOULD BE *EASY*...

...THAT MAKING *ALLIES* OF THESE *NAZIS* WOULD SAVE THE *WORLD*.

I PROMISED YOU A *NEW* WORLD, HARTE--

--I *NEVER* SAID ANYTHING ABOUT *EASY*...

...YOU PATHETIC *COWARD*.

I DIDN'T SIGN ON TO FIGHT *YOUR* WAR, GEOFFREY.

THAT'S *RIGHT*, HARTE...

...RUN.

SO, *I'M* GUESSING...

...YOU WERE KIND OF *HOPING* WE'D BE SKUL AND BLITZKRIEG AND THE *REST* OF YOUR NAZI *PALS*...

...COMING IN FOR A *VICTORY* DANCE.

NO SUCH *LUCK*, SYDENHAM.

AND *YOU* MUST BE COLONEL NICK FURY...

...IT WOULD *SEEM* THAT HILL'S FAITH IN YOU IS *JUSTIFIED*...

...FOR AT *LEAST* THIS LITTLE WHILE.

THE HOLLOW MEN

BARON [illegible]

BRAIN [illegible]

GEIST

THE SPIDER QUEEN

YEAH...

...HILL *SAID* YOU TALKED TOO DAMNED *MUCH*.

THE SPIDER QUEEN WAS A CELEBRATED FILM ACTRESS, A LATECOMER TO NATIONAL SOCIALISM....

...WITH A COMMITMENT BASED MORE ON EXPEDIENCY THAN POLITICS.

[illegible] SECRET AFFAIRS WITH BOTH KRUPP AND SPEER GAVE HER ACCESS TO [illegible] TECHNOLOGY...

...THAT SHE'S PUT TO GOOD USE IN HER POSTWAR CAREER AS A MURDERESS FOR HIRE.

THE LORD OF DEATH WAS A FIFTH COLUMNIST, WORKING THE STREETS OF NEW YORK'S LOWER EAST SIDE...

...UNTIL CAPTAIN AMERICA PUT AN END TO HIS ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES, SENDING THE LORD OF DEATH TO MEET WITH THE LORD OF HELL.

BUT THE LORD OF DEATH'S LEGACY--HIS HOLLOW MEN--LIVE ON...

...UNDER THE CONTROL OF A NEW MASTER, GEOFFREY SYDENHAM.

BEAUTIFULLY *DONE*, MY CHILDREN...

...YOUR SUPREME SACRIFICE WILL *NOT* BE IN *VAIN*.

HOW COME IT'S ALWAYS THE *OTHER* GUY EXPECTED TO MAKE THE SACRIFICE?

ABSOLUTELY *RIGHT*, VICTOR--

--PERHAPS IT'S *TIME* WE HELPED THIS *PEASANT* MAKE A LITTLE SACRIFICE *HIMSELF*.

EASY, McTEAGUE.

WHATEVER DO YOU *MEAN*, COLONEL?

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

WHAT I *MEAN* IS THE *LAST* THING WE NEED IS YOU AND YOUR MAGIC *WAND*.

BUT--

NO BUTS. LET *MY* GUYS HAVE THIS *FIGHT*.

IF THEY NEED *YOU* AND YOUR HOCUS-POCUS...

BLAM BLAM

"...YOU'LL BE THERE ON THE BACK END."

BRAIN DRAIN AND BARON BLOOD HAVE BEEN DOWN THIS ROAD

...RESCUED FROM THE AVENGERS SYDENHAM'S OTHERWORLDLY WITCHCRAFT.

THEY'RE ALL YOURS, VICTOR...

THANKS, PRINCESS.

NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY THINKS, YOU'RE A RIGHT BROAD.

RELAX, MR. FORTUNE.

BLAM BLAM

YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

...IMPLICITLY.

IT'S NOT HER I'M WORRIED ABOUT, SERGEI.

LIKE THEY SAY, IT'S NOT THE FALL THAT KILLS YOU...

BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM

...IT'S THE SUDDEN STOP THAT DOES THE TRICK.

ARMOR-PIERCING AMMUNITION, THANKS TO [redacted] ICON ORDNANCE.

RELAX, AND TAKE IT EASY...

SILVER BLADE ON A WOODEN SHAFT.

...YOU GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...

SKK SKK SKK

...YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS, LIKE THE INSURANCE GUY SAYS.

LOUISE MASON, AKA [redacted] PHANTOM, HAS BEEN ON [redacted] WINNING SIDE SINCE 1945.

MAYBE IF YOU SPENT LESS TIME ON TOYS AND MORE TIME ON YOURSELF...

TO HELL WITH IT--

--WHY WASTE MY BREATH.

SEE WHAT I'M GETTING AT, MCTEAGUE?

TO PUT IT IN YOUR *INIMITABLE* WAY, FURY, I CATCH YOUR *DRIFT*...

...BUT NOW IF YOU'LL *EXCUSE* ME, IT'S TIME TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE.

YE *GODS*--

--I *HAVE* BEEN IN THIS COUNTRY FOR *TOO* LONG.

YOU TREACHEROUS *BASTARD!*

SOUNDS LIKE THE *POT* CALLING THE KETTLE *BLACK*, SYDENHAM...

...*YOU'VE* BEEN TRYING TO SELL OUT YOUR COUNTRY FOR *YEARS.*

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO *SAVE* IT FROM THE LIKES OF *YOU*—

--YOU CAN'T KILL A *DREAM* WHOSE TIME HAS *COME.*

MAYBE *NOT*--

--BUT I SURE PLAN TO *CRIPPLE* THE LIVING *HELL* OUT OF IT.

WASHINGTON, D.C....
...UNION STATION,
...TWO WEEKS LATER.

NONE OF YOU NEED TO HEAR *ANYTHING* FROM [redacted] BUT *THANKS*...

...*THANKS* FOR A JOB WELL DONE, FROM YOUR *COUNTRY*, FROM THE *WORLD*, AND FROM *ME*.

THE THANKS OF A GRATEFUL NATION [redacted] *WONDERFUL*, COLONEL; DON'T GET ME *WRONG*...

YEAH, *RIGHT*—BUT WHAT *WE'RE* GETTING AT IS--

CAN WE CUT TO THE *CHASE* HERE?

I THINK WE *ALL* KNOW WHAT'S BEING DANCED *AROUND* HERE, DON'T WE, LOUISE?

ABSOLUTELY, AQUARIA.

NICK?

IT'S *ALL* TAKEN CARE OF--

A FULL *PARDON* FOR THE THREE OF YOU, *COURTESY* OF UNCLE SAM.

NOW *WHERE* ARE WE GOING AGAIN?

PAPA'S INVITED US TO *KEY WEST*--

--HE SAYS THE *MARLIN* ARE BITING.

YOU REALLY ARE UTTERLY DEVOID OF *IRONY*, SERGEI DARLING.

INTERESTING COUPLE...

...HOW ABOUT *YOU* TWO?

TWENTIETH CENTURY TO *CHICAGO*--

THEN ON TO *LOS ANGELES*.

WONDERFUL-- WE'RE A *THREESOME* THEN...

...FOR *BRIDGE*.

DIFFICULT TO GIVE UP ONE'S *COMMAND*, EH, COLONEL?

YOU *FOLLOWING* ME, MCTEAGUE?

REALLY NOW, COLONEL--

--MY SUPERNATURAL *GIFTS* MAY NOT BE THE *LATEST* IN WITCHCRAFT--

--BUT KEEPING TABS ON *YOU* IS A POSITIVE *BREEZE*, DON'T YOU KNOW.

SO TO *WHAT* DO I OWE THE *PLEASURE?*

WELL, TO PUT IT *SIMPLY*—

THAT'D BE A *FIRST*--

BE *KIND*, COLONEL--

--SUFFICE IT TO *SAY* THAT ALTHOUGH YOUR UNSANCTIONED *TEAM* OF OPERATIVES HAS *SCATTERED*...

...YOUR-- *OUR*--WORK *CONTINUES.*

EXACTLY *WHAT* WORK'RE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT, MCTEAGUE?

AS FAR AS I [redacted] TELL, WE'VE [redacted] WHAT [redacted] SET OUT TO *DO*--

--WRECK AN UBERMENSCHEN *UPSURGE*...

OUR WORK?

"...AND MAKE **CERTAIN** THEIR FRIENDS IN **HIGH** PLACES DIDN'T FIND A COZY NEW **HOME** FOR ANY **NAZIS** THAT SLIPPED THROUGH THE **CRACKS.**"

YOU **CAN'T** DO THAT, GENERAL.

JUST **WATCH** ME, SENATOR...

...YOU'VE GOT A **LOT** TO ANSWER FOR.

EVERYONE MAKES **MISTAKES.**

YOU CALL DRAGGING YOUR COUNTRY TO THE BRINK OF **DESTRUCTION** A **MISTAKE?**

I DID **NOTHING** WRONG, GENERAL HILL--

--WHILE **YOU,** ON THE OTHER HAND, RAN A **ROGUE** OPERATION IN DIRECT **VIOLATION** OF ORDERS FROM ALL THREE BRANCHES OF THE FEDERAL **GOVERNMENT.**

WHAT ARE YOU **SAYING,** HARTE?

I'M SAYING THAT IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY **FURTHER** SCANDAL--

--MY **SUBCOMMITTEE** HAS OPTED TO PROSECUTE **NEITHER** YOU **NOR** UNDERSECRETARY SYDENHAM.

YOU'RE **KIDDING** ME, RIGHT?

SYDENHAM GETS AWAY WITH **TREASON?**

I **GATHER** THERE'S A BIT MORE TO THE **QUID PRO QUO** HERE...

...I'VE *HEARD* FROM OUR FRIEND *KOENIG* IN LATVERIA.

"BESIDES SWEEPING THESE NAZI MISCREANTS..."

HASSENSTADT, THE CAPITAL OF LATVERIA...

STEADY, YOUR HIGHNESS...

"...INTO THE DUSTBIN OF HISTORY..."

...A HOTBED OF INTERNATIONAL DOUBLE-DEALING...

...NO NEED TO PUSH TOO *HARD...*

*"...IT WOULD **ALSO** SEEM THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT HAS MANAGED TO **RESCUE** PRINCE T'CHAKA OF WAKANDA..."*

...WHERE NO QUESTIONS ARE ASKED OR ANSWERS OFFERED.

...WE'LL HAVE YOU BACK IN *WAKANDA* IN NO TIME.

...WHICH GIVES THE FREE WORLD A *SERIOUS* LEG UP WHEN IT COMES TO WAKANDAN *TECHNOLOGY.*

LA GUARDIA FIELD, NEW YORK.

I NEED BOOTS ON THE *GROUND*, AND EYES ON THE *PRIZE* IN WAKANDA...

...AND I GATHER FROM MISS *MASON* THAT YOU AND MINISTER *K'TELA* HIT IT OFF.

IF BY HIT IT OFF, YOU MEAN RUB EACH OTHER THE *WRONG* WAY IN A GOOD WAY, I'LL *BUY* THAT.

SPEAKING OF BUYING, GENERAL HILL...

RIGHT.

I--*WE*--NEED *YOU* TO ESTABLISH A *CHANNEL* BETWEEN US AND THE WAKANDAN *SCIENTIFIC* COMMUNITY...

...AND BY *WE*, I MEAN *US*.

WHAT THE GENERAL IS TRYING TO *SAY*, COLONEL--

I *GET* IT, MCTEAGUE...

"...THE *LESS* UNCLE SAM KNOWS ABOUT WHAT WE'RE *GETTING* FROM OUR NEW FRIENDS IN WAKANDA, THE *BETTER.*"

GREENWICH VILLAGE HAS BEEN A HAVEN FOR OUTSIDERS, DISSIDENTS AND MALCONTENTS FOR OVER A CENTURY...

...AND NO STREET IN THE DECEPTIVELY QUAINT PART OF LOWER MANHATTAN HAS A NASTIER REPUTATION FOR SEDITION THAN MACDOUGAL ALLEY...

...A NARROW THOROUGHFARE BETWEEN SAGGING TENEMENTS THAT'S BEEN THE HOME OF ANARCHISTS, BOMB THROWERS AND RADICALS SINCE THE BIRTH OF THE REPUBLIC.

BUT OF COURSE, THOSE DAYS ARE GONE--AND WITH THEM, THE TROUBLEMAKERS WHO GAVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD ITS GAMY REPUTATION...

...REPLACED BY ADVERTISING MEN, YOUNG EXECUTIVES, AND MIDWESTERN GIRLS LOOKING FOR A LITTLE DANGER IN THEIR LIVES.

BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN, SOMEONE MOVES INTO MACDOUGAL ALLEY WHO JUSTIFIES THE STREET'S DANGEROUS REPUTATION...

...AND NEW SECRETS ARE BORN TO JOIN THE OLD...

...BECAUSE EVIL NEVER DIES...

...IT JUST SLUMBERS FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

THE END.